

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

<b>ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC</b>	*	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO.</b>
	*	
	*	<b>SECTION:</b>
<b>VERSUS</b>	*	
	*	<b>JUDGE:</b>
	*	
<b>THE HAWTHORN GROUP, L.C.</b>	*	<b>MAG. DIV.:</b>
	*	
	*	<b>MAG. JUDGE:</b>
* * * * *		

**COMPLAINT**

The plaintiff, Entergy New Orleans, LLC, asserts the following:

**PARTIES**

**1.**

Plaintiff, Entergy New Orleans, LLC (“Entergy”), is a Texas limited liability company whose members are:

- a. Entergy Corporation, which is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Louisiana;
- b. Entergy Utility Affiliates Holdings, LLC, which is a Texas limited liability company, whose members are owned by Entergy Corporation;
- c. Entergy Utility Assets Holdings, LLC, which is a Texas limited liability company, whose members are owned by Entergy Corporation;
- d. Entergy Utility Affiliates, LLC, which is a Texas limited liability company, whose members are owned by Entergy Corporation and Entergy Utility Affiliates Holdings, LLC;

e. Entergy Utility Assets, LLC, which is a Texas limited liability company, whose members are Entergy Corporation and Entergy Utility Assets Holdings, LLC;

f. Entergy Utility Group, Inc., which is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Louisiana; and

g. Entergy Utility Holding Company, LLC, which is a Texas limited liability company, whose members are owned by Entergy Corporation; Entergy Utility Affiliates Holdings, LLC; Entergy Utility Assets Holdings, LLC; Entergy Utility Assets, LLC; Entergy Utility Affiliates, LLC; and Entergy Utility Group, Inc.

**2.**

Defendant, The Hawthorn Group, L.C. (“Hawthorn”), is a limited liability company, whose members, upon information and belief, are citizens of Virginia.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

**3.**

This Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, diversity of citizenship, in that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and the case is between citizens of different states.

**4.**

This claim arises from a contract pursuant to which Hawthorn agreed to provide certain services to Entergy in this state and judicial district. Hawthorn directed its services to the State of Louisiana, transacted business here, and engaged in frequent communication with individuals here about its engagement. Therefore, Hawthorn is subject to specific personal jurisdiction in Louisiana.

5.

Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Louisiana pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that the events and omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this district.

### **BACKGROUND**

6.

For more than 50 years, the Michoud Generating Station in New Orleans East served as the “cornerstone” of Entergy’s electric system, providing 781 megawatts (“MW”) of local generating capacity.

7.

Entergy’s high-voltage transmission system was designed and evolved around the Michoud units. Because of their ages and related maintenance and operational issues (including concerns for worker safety), Entergy deactivated the Michoud units in June 2016, leaving New Orleans with no local electric generating resource within the City.

8.

This situation “deeply concerned” the City Council, which concern was well founded. Since the deactivation of Michoud, Entergy has faced a “serious reliability risk” and significant planning and operational challenges, including the risk of widespread, cascading outages and insufficient support following a major storm.

9.

In order to address these issues, on June 20, 2016, Entergy filed its Application for Approval to Construct New Orleans Power Station (“NOPS”) and Request for Cost Recovery and Timely Relief (“Application”).

**10.**

In the Application, Entergy requested approval of a 226 MW combustion turbine at the Michoud Site. Entergy later supplemented its Application to request approval of either the originally proposed CT Alternative with an output of 226 MW, or, alternatively, seven Wärtsilä 18V50SG Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine Generation sets, with a total capacity of 128 MW.

**11.**

NOPS is necessary to mitigate serious reliability concerns, namely the potential for widespread, cascading outages that could cripple the entire City. Because of its location (*i.e.*, it is surrounded by water on three sides), the City of New Orleans is entirely dependent on the set of existing transmission lines situated in a relatively small geographical area, meaning that the loss of even a portion of the transmission facilities delivering energy into the City would likely prevent Entergy from serving its entire load.

**12.**

Without NOPS, Entergy is vulnerable to events that could lead to uncontrollable cascading outages in the New Orleans area and the inability to utilize a local resource to respond to storms.

**13.**

The City Council's advisors agreed with Entergy's analysis showing that a reliability need exists and that NOPS is the only viable option to provide grid stability considering the substantial risks associated with all other options.

14.

In connection with the NOPS project, the City Council called for public meetings in each Council district and an additional meeting “for the purpose of receiving additional public comment related to the project,” which was scheduled for October 16, 2017.

15.

Polling conducted by BDCP, LLC revealed that 78% of the people living in New Orleans East supported the NOPS project. A similar percentage of people living throughout New Orleans also supported the project.

**CLAIM FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT**

16.

In the fall of 2017, Entergy contacted Hawthorn, an international public affairs company that specializes in community outreach, to ascertain whether Hawthorn could supplement Entergy’s internal public outreach efforts in connection with the NOPS project.

17.

Entergy explained to Hawthorn that it already had an organization in place to support Entergy’s internal public affairs group conducting community outreach, and that Entergy was hoping to identify and engage a broader group of supporters in the process.

18.

Hawthorn represented to Entergy that it had a community outreach organizer “on the ground in the New Orleans area who can work on this for us and we are confident we can turn out NOLA citizens (18 and older) who support the issue (and will tell people why if asked).” Hawthorn further represented that “[t]he people we would turn out would care about

jobs/economic development, reliable and affordable power AND would be highly focused on preventing the kinds of issues the city just went through.”

**19.**

In connection with the October 16, 2017 public meeting, Entergy entered into a contract with Hawthorn pursuant to which Hawthorn agreed to identify and recruit legitimate NOPS supporters to appear at the public meeting, some of whom would speak in support of the project (“the Agreement”).

**20.**

Hawthorn represented and warranted in Section 22.1 of the Agreement that “it has the Competence to perform the Work,” meaning “the expertise, experience, capability and specialized knowledge to perform Work in a good and workmanlike manner and within all accepted standards for the industry.”

**21.**

Hawthorn further represented and warranted in Section 22.3 of the Agreement that “it will perform the Work provided for in this Contract in conformance with the highest standards of care and practice appropriate to the nature of the Work and exercise the highest degree of thoroughness, competence and care that is customary in the utility industry.”

**22.**

The Agreement did not contemplate or authorize Hawthorn’s paying any NOPS supporters to attend the October 16, 2017 public meeting. Based on the Agreement and Hawthorn’s international reputation, Entergy expected that Hawthorn would identify people who

legitimately supported the NOPS project and encourage them to attend the meeting in support of the project.

**23.**

The Agreement also stated in Section 27 that the “Work shall be performed solely by Contractor or by those Subcontractors that Company may from time to time allow by its prior written approval.” Section 27 further provided that “Contractor shall be responsible to Company for Work performed by all of its Subcontractors to the same extent it is for activities performed by Contractor’s employees.”

**24.**

Section 27 of the Agreement was specifically included to ensure that the services for which Entergy contracted would be provided by Hawthorn and its employees, and in the manner expected, based on the experience and reputation of Hawthorn, and not by an unapproved subcontractor.

**25.**

Hawthorn recruited individuals who appeared in support of the NOPS project to attend the October 16, 2017 public meeting.

**26.**

Entergy did not draft, review, or revise any talking points or “scripts” used by the individuals Hawthorn recruited to appear at the October 16, 2017 public meeting or at any subsequent meeting.

**27.**

On October 23, 2017, Entergy was alerted to a tweet claiming that Entergy had paid

supporters to appear at the October 16 public meeting. Entergy immediately forwarded the tweet to Hawthorn.

**28.**

Later that same day, Entergy was alerted to a second tweet containing similar information. Entergy also forwarded that tweet to Hawthorn.

**29.**

The author of the two tweets did not provide any evidence supporting his assertion that people had been paid to support the NOPS project at the October 16 public meeting.

**30.**

Following the second tweet, Entergy contacted Hawthorn and questioned its President and Chief Operating Officer as to whether Hawthorn had paid NOPS supporters to appear at the October 16, 2017 public meeting. Hawthorn assured Entergy that it had not paid anyone to appear at the public meeting.

**31.**

In connection with the February 21, 2018 Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee meeting (“Utility Committee Meeting”), Entergy signed Change Order No. 1 to the Agreement pursuant to which Hawthorn again agreed to recruit legitimate NOPS supporters to appear at the meeting.

**32.**

If Entergy had known that Hawthorn paid people to appear in support of the NOPS project at the October 16, 2017 public meeting, or that Hawthorn had subcontracted the work in violation of Section 27 of the Agreement, then Entergy would have immediately terminated the Agreement and taken steps to rectify the situation.

**33.**

During the February 21, 2018 Utility Committee Meeting, a man wearing a marked-up, orange Entergy t-shirt told the City Council that his friend had been paid to appear in support of the NOPS project at the October 16, 2017 public meeting.

**34.**

Hawthorn had recommended that Entergy purchase orange t-shirts for supporters to wear to the October 16, 2017 public meeting to differentiate them from NOPS opponents. Hawthorn purchased the t-shirts, instructed the t-shirt company to send some to Entergy to distribute to people that Entergy had asked to attend the October 16 public meeting, and retained the remainder for its own use.

**35.**

On February 22, 2018, Entergy emailed Hawthorn that several supporters had worn Entergy's orange t-shirt to the hearing, despite Entergy's understanding that the orange t-shirts were to be worn only at the October 16, 2017 public hearing, and that a NOPS opponent "wore a marked-up orange shirt and commented about paid supporters."

**36.**

Hawthorn dismissed the payment allegation and told Entergy that the supporters recruited

by Hawthorn who wore the orange t-shirts to the February 21 Utility Committee Meeting did so because they “were passionate about the cause” and “believed in the message”:

I followed up with our supervisor/recruiter in NOLA who said that he didn’t tell people to wear the shirts (tho[ugh] he didn’t tell them not to either). Just happened because the supporters loved the shirts and were passionate about the cause. For what it’s worth, apparently many of them have been wearing those shirts everywhere because they were comfy shirts and because they believed in the message.

**37.**

On March 5, 2018, Entergy emailed Hawthorn to relay another payment allegation that was being circulated in an email by some opponents of the NOPS project. Hawthorn simply responded: “Interesting.”

**38.**

Not satisfied with that reply, Entergy pressed Hawthorn for a more thorough response to the allegation. Hawthorn responded unequivocally: “Entergy did not pay anyone for their support.”

**39.**

The following day, in response to a request from a blog writer seeking comment on payment allegations, which Entergy immediately forwarded to Hawthorn, Hawthorn again dismissed the allegation: “Hired as an actor? Apparently their evidence is one person who is dilusional [sic] or just lying.”

**40.**

Unbeknownst to Entergy, Hawthorn had an ongoing relationship with a firm located in California called Crowds on Demand.

41.

Entergy discovered for the first time in May 2018 that Hawthorn had subcontracted Crowds on Demand to work on the NOPS project without Entergy's "prior written approval," which was a clear violation of Section 27 of the Agreement, and that Crowds on Demand had paid people to appear in support of NOPS at the October 16, 2017 public meeting and the February 21, 2018 Utility Committee Meeting. Hawthorn acted intentionally, grossly deviated from the applicable standard of care of similar professionals, and acted in bad faith.

42.

Hawthorn's subcontracting of Crowds on Demand, and Crowds on Demand's payments to individuals to appear at the October 16, 2017 public meeting and the February 21, 2018 Utility Committee Meeting, were not "in conformance with the highest standards of care and practice appropriate to the nature of the Work" and did not meet "the highest degree of thoroughness, competence and care that is customary in the utility industry" as required by the Agreement.

43.

Upon learning that Hawthorn had engaged an unauthorized subcontractor, Entergy demanded that Hawthorn produce all communications generated in connection with Hawthorn's work on the NOPS project.

44.

The emails and other documents produced by Hawthorn showed that Hawthorn was in almost constant contact with Crowds on Demand throughout the NOPS project. The emails and other documents also showed that Hawthorn actively concealed Crowds on Demand's involvement from Entergy and routinely forwarded Entergy emails to Crowds on Demand without

Entergy's knowledge.

45.

Throughout this time, Hawthorn maintained the charade that it had engaged in legitimate community outreach activities and had not paid anyone to attend a City Council meeting in support of the NOPS project. Following publication of an article in *The Lens* on May 4, 2018, which contained a link to credible information substantiating the payment allegations, Entergy's General Counsel confronted Hawthorn's Chairman of the Board, who confessed that Hawthorn had retained Crowds on Demand without Entergy's knowledge to work on the NOPS project in violation of the Agreement. He also admitted that Hawthorn had not requested, and had not received, authority from anyone at Entergy to pay supporters to appear at either the October 16, 2017 public meeting or the February 21, 2018 Utility Committee Meeting. A complete copy of Hawthorn's confession, which is excerpted below, is attached as Exhibit A:

Hawthorn did not inform anyone at Entergy that Hawthorn had engaged Crowds on Demand as a vendor to work on the project, and Entergy did not authorize the engagement of Crowds on Demand.

Hawthorn's order to Crowds on Demand was to provide supporters who would understand and be able to communicate their support for the proposed new power plant in New Orleans East. Hawthorn did not authorize Crowds on Demand to make any payments to participants, and Entergy did not authorize or direct any payments to participants recruited by Crowds on Demand.

At no time did Hawthorn inform anyone at Entergy that Crowds on Demand was retained on this project, and Hawthorn neither sought nor received authorization from anyone at Entergy for Crowds on Demand to make any payments to supporters.

46.

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Agreement, Hawthorn is responsible for the work performed by Crowds on Demand to the same extent it is responsible for activities performed by its own

employees.

47.

Hawthorn's actions damaged Entergy.

48.

In May 2018, the City Council adopted Motion M-18-196 initiating an investigation into allegations that Entergy paid or participated in paying actors to attend and/or speak at one or more public meetings in connection with Entergy's NOPS application.

49.

On October 29, 2018, the City Council's investigators submitted their Independent External Investigation to the City Council.

50.

After spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, interviewing almost two dozen witnesses, and reviewing more than 9,000 pages of documents, the City Council's investigators did not produce any evidence substantiating the allegation that anyone at Entergy "knew" that Hawthorn or its unauthorized subcontractor, Crowds on Demand, had paid people to appear in support of NOPS at either the October 16, 2017 or February 21, 2018 meetings before the City Council.

51.

On October 31, 2018, at the conclusion of the City Council's investigation, the Council issued Resolution No. R-18-474.

52.

Hawthorn is contractually and legally obligated to reimburse Entergy for the costs associated with the Council's investigation.

53.

Pursuant to Section 56 of the Agreement, Hawthorn is also obligated to reimburse Entergy for all costs, attorneys' fees and any other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with these legal proceedings.

54.

Entergy has satisfied all conditions precedent to bringing the instant suit.

55.

Entergy requests the following relief:

1. A judgment declaring and adjudicating that Hawthorn breached the Agreement when it and/or its unauthorized subcontractor, Crowds on Demand, without Entergy's knowledge or approval, paid people to appear and/or speak in support of the NOPS project at either the October 16, 2017 public meeting or the February 21, 2018 Utility Committee Meeting;
2. A judgment declaring and adjudicating that Hawthorn's work, including the work of the unauthorized subcontractor for which it is contractually and legal responsible, failed to meet the highest degree of thoroughness, competence, and care that is customary in the utility industry and was not in compliance with accepted standards for the industry;
3. A judgment ordering Hawthorn to indemnify and reimburse Entergy for all costs associated with the Council's investigation; and
4. An award equal to Entergy's attorney's fees, costs, and other expenses incurred in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, Entergy New Orleans, LLC prays that this Complaint be deemed good and sufficient and that, after due proceedings, there be judgment rendered in its favor, and against The Hawthorn Group, L.C., as requested above. Entergy further prays for all general and equitable relief as the nature of this case may permit.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas M. Flanagan

Thomas M. Flanagan (#19569)

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## HAWTHORN

THE HAWTHORN GROUP, L.C. SUITE 100, 625 SLATERS LANE ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

phone 703.299.4499 fax 703.299.4488 WWW.HAWTHORNGROUP.COM

May 9, 2018

Marcus V. Brown, Esq.  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
Entergy Corporation  
639 Loyola Ave., Suite 2600  
New Orleans, LA 70113

Dear Marcus:

Following is a summary of The Hawthorn Group's engagement to provide public affairs support for Entergy's proposed power plant in New Orleans East.

Specifically, Hawthorn was retained by Entergy to turn out supporters for public hearings on October 16, 2017 and February 21, 2018. Hawthorn was not retained to support any other hearings, proceedings or meetings on this project.

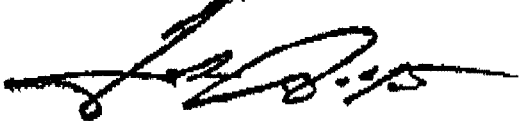
For those two hearings, Hawthorn retained Crowds on Demand, a subcontractor with experience and contacts in New Orleans, to provide supporters for the proposed new power plant. Hawthorn did not inform anyone at Entergy that Hawthorn had engaged Crowds on Demand as a vendor to work on the project, and Entergy did not authorize the engagement of Crowds on Demand.

Hawthorn's order to Crowds on Demand was to provide supporters who would understand and be able to communicate their support for the proposed new power plant in New Orleans East. Hawthorn did not authorize Crowds on Demand to make any payments to participants, and Entergy did not authorize or direct any payments to participants recruited by Crowds on Demand.

At no time did Hawthorn inform anyone at Entergy that Crowds on Demand was retained on this project, and Hawthorn neither sought nor received authorization from anyone at Entergy for Crowds on Demand to make any payments to supporters.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, and please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



John Ashford  
Chairman & CEO

# Exhibit A

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Entergy New Orleans, LLC

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Orleans, LA  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  
Thomas M. Flanagan (#19569), Flanagan Partners, LLP, 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 2405, New Orleans, LA 70170; Phone: 504-569-0235

**DEFENDANTS**

The Hawthorn Group, L.C.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Arlington, VA  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                                   |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

28 U.S.C. Sec. 1332

Brief description of cause:

Breach of Contract

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

12/05/2018

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44****Authority For Civil Cover Sheet**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) **Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) **County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) **Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. **Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. **Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. **Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. **Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. **Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. **Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. **Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.